

To: CT DEEP Environment Committee

RE: House Bill 5583 / Water Levels Bashan Lake, East Haddam, CT

From: Martha Stockman

As a property owner on Bashan Lake in East Haddam, I am in full support of House Bill 5583

I support giving the Bashan Lake Association (BLA) and the Town of East Haddam the flexibility to determine the timetable for and the amount of water to be drawn down to prevent damage to shoreline properties, prevent shoreline erosion and control invasive weeds.

I have been witness to spring flooding on the lake which not only damaged lakefront homes but also walls and shoreline, leading to erosion into lake. Such erosion will lead to the deterioration of water quality, which will adversely affect recreational activities like fishing, boating and swimming.

A draw down is also a critical tool in the control of invasive weeds now present in the lake. As witnessed this past year, improper timing of draw down (associated with the dam rebuilding project) prevented the lake from refilling on schedule and led to an overabundance of invasive weed growth. Such weed growth, if not controlled will cause loss of access to the state boat launch, loss of recreational use of a public body of water and hazardous swimming and boating conditions.

Thank for your consideration,

Martha Stockman
Bashan Lake Property #14
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East Haddam, CT